

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANEA

Published by

The Chicago Academy of Sciences

Lincoln Park - 2001 N. Clark St., Chicago 14, Illinois

No. 100

February 15, 1952

Two New Birds from Philippine Islands

A. L. Rand¹ and D. S. Rabor²

The new species and new subspecies described below are part of the results of the study of the collections made by the junior author in Negros and Mindanao. These collections are in the Chicago Natural History Museum where under a Fulbright Fellowship the junior author is spending a year preparing a complete account of the vertebrate animals of Negros Island.

Stachyris nigrorum new species

Type. Chicago Natural History Museum 187863 from Cuernos de Negros, Negros Oriental, Negros Island, Philippine Islands. Adult female collected April 17, 1951, by D. Empeso.

Description. Feathers above nostrils whitish, faintly tipped dusky; crown olive, bordered anteriorly and laterally with black; back and sides of neck, back, rump, upper tail coverts, wing coverts, and outer edges of remiges olive, like crown except for rump, upper tail coverts and outer edges of primaries that are more olive brown; tail olive brown; face dirty white, bordered by a black line that starts on forehead, continues back on edge of crown above the whitish superciliary, curves downward and forms a bar on the tip of the auriculars, and then forward to end in an enlarged mark on the side of the throat directly below the eye; also a small black mark in front of the eye; chin and throat yellowish white, rest of underparts strongly suffused with yellow, brightest on the belly and shading to olive on flanks, with a few sharp, narrow bold black streaks on upper breast, and wider, less well-defined and dusky streaks plentiful on lower breast, gradually disappearing on the abdomen and flanks; under tail coverts dusky olive, broadly edged with yellowish white to buffy; thighs dusky olive with feathers tipped with yellowish white to buffy; axillaries and

¹Curator of Birds, Chicago Natural History Museum. ²
Professor of Biology, Silliman University, Negros, P. I.

under wing coverts white tinged yellowish, except for the outer coverts which are dusky; inner secondaries olive, other secondaries and primaries brownish black edged externally with olive, and internally, except for tips, with yellowish white to bulky; under side of tail olive brown, paler than upper surface. Bill black and feet dark gray (in dry skin) .

Measurements. Two females, wing 70, 69; tail 53, 53; culmen from base 18, 18.5; tarsus 21, 21 mm.

Range. Probably only the mountains of Negros; known from only two specimens, collected at the type locality.

Remarks. This is a very distinct species of *Stachyris*. In having a bold black pattern on forehead and sides of head it recalls the other Negros endemic, *Stachyris speciosa*. However, in general nearly uniform color of upperparts, and in the streaking of the underparts, though much reduced, it recalls *S. striata* of the highlands of northern Luzon. *S. striata* with a slight amount of black in the forehead; black above the eye, and in the malar areas and white in the lores shows a slight tendency toward the bold head pattern of *nigrorum*. It is probably its closest relative, but the differences are pronounced enough to warrant considering them different species.

The distribution of the eight species of the genus *Stachyris* in the Philippines is surprisingly local. Three species are known only from the highlands of northern Luzon: *striata*, *whiteheadi* and *dennistouni*; two are known only from Negros: *nigrorum* (highlands) and *speciosa* (lowlands) ; *S. capitalis* ranges from Basilan and Mindanao to southern Leyte and is replaced on northern Leyte and Bohol to southern Luzon by *nigrocapitata*; *plateni* ranges on Mindanao, Leyte and Samar.

These two specimens of this new species were secured by a collecting party from Silliman University, Dumaguete, Negros, in 1951. They ascended Cuernos de Negros (locally called Talinis) , the highest mountain in southern Negros, that lies about 15 kilometers from Dumaguete. The party, composed of students and assistants headed by A. T. Torres camped at about 4000 feet and collected there for about two weeks.

Harpactes ardens luzoniensis new subspecies

Type. Chicago Natural History Museum 19972, from Dinampan, Bataan Province, Luzon Island. Adult male, collected November 10, 1904, by Andres Celestino and Mariano Canton.

Diagnosis. Similar to *H. ardens* from Mindanao, but differing in the smaller bill and in the male in the duller, paler red of the underparts, especially pronounced in the crissum.

Measurements. Type: Wing 144; tail 184; culmen from base 21.5; tarsus 14 mm.

Culmen from base: Luzon males 21.5, 22, 24; females 23. Mindanao males 25, 26.5, 25.5, 25.5, 25, 24.5; females 25.5, 25, 25, 25, 25, 25 mm.

Range. Specimens examined from Luzon only.

Remarks. Temminck's description of *H. a. ardens* was based on a bird from Mindanao. Peale described the same species based on a bird from Zamboanga, Mindanao, under the name *H. rodiosternus*, which name is therefore unavailable for the present race and is a synonym of *H. a. ardens*.

On bill character there is no overlap between our four Luzon birds and our thirteen Mindanao birds. In the males, on color characters, five of the six Mindanao birds are distinct from the three Luzon males.

This species is restricted to part of the Philippine Islands, ranging from Luzon, through the eastern islands of Bohol, Dinagat, Leyte, Mindugue and Samar to Mindanao and Basilan. We have shown that the southern birds (Mindanao and probably Basilan) are different enough to separate subspecifically under the name *H. a. ardens* from the northern birds (Luzon) which latter we have named *H. a. luzoniensis*. The status of the birds from intermediate islands remains to be determined but not improbably they may prove to be intermediate, representing a cline, as has been found in some other Philippine species.

Natural History Miscellanea, a series of miscellaneous papers initiated in 1946 as an outlet for original articles, more or less technical in nature, one to four pages in length, in any field of natural history. Individual issues, published at irregular intervals, are numbered separately and represent only one field of specialization; e. g., botany, geology, entomology, herpetology, etc. The series is distributed to libraries and scientific organizations with which the Academy maintains exchanges. A title page and index will be supplied to these institutions when a sufficient number of pages to form a volume have been printed. Individual specialists with whom the museum or the various authors maintain exchanges receive those numbers dealing with their particular fields of interest. A reserve *is* set aside for future exchanges and a supply of each number is available for sale at a nominal price. Authors may obtain copies for their personal exchanges at the prevailing rates for similar reprints.

H. K. Gloyd, Director.

Committee on Publications:

Alfred Emerson, Hanford Tiffany, and C. L. Turner.